

**Medford Food Co-op
Annual Owner Meeting
May 11, 2021, 5:30 p.m.**

Note: Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held online via Zoom. The recording may be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFC6wIToK6s>

Welcome & Introductions

Kellie Hill, Board of Directors President, opened the meeting by introducing Directors and staff and taking attendance for the official record. There were 22 people present by video (7 directors, 3 staff members, and 12 additional owners).

2020 Business Report

Anne Carter, General Manager, gave her report, highlighting Co-op accomplishments from 2020. The full 2020 Annual Report may be viewed at <https://medfordfood.coop/owner-resources>

Although 2020 brought unprecedented challenges, Anne noted several bright spots that emerged that help to balance the perspective on the year. Here are a few highlights that demonstrate the story of how the Medford Food Co-op (MFC) successfully served the community in 2020.

- The Co-op relied on local food and beverage vendors to help keep store shelves stocked, resulting in an 80% increase over last year of the purchase of local products that are produced within a 100-mile radius of Medford.
- The Co-op raised awareness about local producers through the Rogue Valley Farm Tour. MFC continued its collaboration with the Ashland Food Co-op to offer this virtual event, which allows the public to visit 11 farms and producers. Take the tour by visiting www.roguevalleyfarmtour.com
- As COVID-19 began, the Co-op took steps to protect the community. In addition to increased cleaning and the removal of self-serve items, MFC also started an online shopping program to serve the most vulnerable customers. This service has continued; learn more at www.medfordfood.coop/orders
- Thanks to the generosity of customers and mini-grants, the Co-op donated \$35,209 to local organizations last year. These funds were especially welcomed by nonprofits that were unable to hold their regular fundraising events due to the pandemic.
- The Co-op's staff courage and loyalty was key to successfully navigating through last year's COVID-related challenges. Keeping staff safe was a priority and the Co-op took care of them in multiple ways, from increased pay to creating store shifts for Café staff during closures.
- The Co-op's response to the September fires included offering healthy food for fire survivors at the Expo and delivering food to firefighters and emergency personnel. Additional Positive Change funds were raised and distributed to local nonprofit organizations supporting fire relief efforts.

- While the Café was closed to indoor dining, the Board assisted in efforts to complete a remodel, including changes to improve the customer experience and address post-pandemic trends.
- This year will be the Co-op's 10th anniversary. A three-part history was written in the fall documenting MFC's journey from the beginning. Read more at <https://medfordfood.coop/blog>
- After successfully navigating 2020's hurdles, the Co-op is optimistic about the future. In addition to building a thriving local food economy, the Co-op provides economic, social, and environmental benefits for the Rogue Valley. Some of the ways MFC achieved that last year include:
 - 105 local producers supported
 - 153 staff volunteer hours recorded
 - 26,181 pounds of food donated
 - \$40,266 given in donations
 - 260 new Co-op owners added
- The Co-op finished 2020 in a strong financial position. Net income of \$453K was the highest in the Co-op's history. Total sales were \$6,158,963.

Board Report

President Hill thanked the CORE management staff, acknowledging that they, along with Anne, make everything happen. CORE staff include Jimmy Breedlove, Front End Manager; Jess Gravelle, Grocery Manager; Halle Riddlebarger, Marketing/Outreach Manager; Steve Swader, Produce/Facilities Manager, and Andrea Warfield, Café Manager.

Election Results

A record 371 owners voted electronically in this year's election, a 23% increase over last year. All five candidates were elected creating a full board of nine Directors representing the ownership. Incumbents Fran Batzer, Patty Casebolt, and Roger Noyes were re-elected; Peggy Leviton and Dan Smith were newly elected.

In addition to the board members elected, the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation passed, as did the Board stipend choice of a store gift card or discount. The organizations voted in as the 2022 Positive Change recipients include:

- Maslow Project
- Our Family Farms
- CASA of Jackson County
- Rogue Valley Farm to School
- The Children's Advocacy Center of Jackson County
- Habitat for Humanity Rogue Valley
- Southern Oregon Humane Society (SoHumane)
- Rogue Retreat
- The Bee Girl Organization
- Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild)
- Community Works

Cooperative Community Fund

Each year, the Board selects one of the organizations from the previous year's Positive Change recipients to receive the interest earned on MFC's Cooperative Community Fund. This fund is a permanent endowment with the interest donated to a local non-profit each year. This year the Board chose to donate the available interest of \$941.98 to the Pollinator Project Rogue Valley.

Patronage Dividend

The Board expects to distribute a patronage dividend this year pending the completion of the tax return.

Expansion Update

Discussions about expansion have been ongoing for about three years. Most feasibility studies have been completed however no site has been secured to date. Amending the Articles of Incorporation is another step in preparing the paperwork in anticipation of expanding. Building materials have become more expensive which may delay the expansion process.

President Hill answered questions from owners about the location process the Board has followed so far, anticipated size of an expanded store, and outreach about potential locations. Anne added that the Co-op will be doing resets in the coming months to carry the best mix of products and maximize the current space.

Special Thanks

President Hill gave special thanks to Kristi Schoenbachler, recognizing her for her efforts and years of service to the Co-op. Kristi previously sat on the Board as Treasurer and later was an instrumental member of the Finance Committee.

Kellie also thanked outgoing Board member Verne Underwood, whose contributions to rewriting the Bylaws were invaluable.

Owners were encouraged to become involved in guiding the future of the Co-op by volunteering to work on board committees or running for a seat on the board.

Hearing no further questions, Kellie closed the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Damas

Kathy Damas, Board Administrative Assistant